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That a new steamship line has been established by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company between Rotterdam and the west coast of South America, the new line serving Holland, the Rhine Valley, Basel, and Zurich.

That the Japanese House of Representatives has adopted a bill giving women the right to attend political meetings, this being held to be an important advance toward the emancipation of Japanese womanhood.

That, after experiments extending over more than ten years, a Swedish engineer is stated to have succeeded in inventing a speaking film which, it is claimed, ensures the absolutely simultaneous production of sound and picture.

That Australia is to have a health department, which will have the assistance of the Rockefeller Institute experts, to deal with health in general and with industrial hygiene and industrial and tropical diseases in particular.

That the Paris University Library is to have a collection of gramophone records reproducing the voices of the great men of modern France, for which the three marshals of France will be asked to read the most famous orders which they issued during the war.

That Japan is short 125,000 houses, and that an attempt is being made to arouse public interest in solving the difficulty by having an exhibition of models of buildings, to which all associations of architects and engineers and societies for the study of architecture will be asked to send models.

That steps are being taken toward the establishment in Leipzig, Germany, of a national museum of economics, to be known as the *Institut fuer Deutsche Volkswirtschaft*, the purpose of which is to be research, instruction, and stimulation of interest in Germany's resources.

That the Italy-America Society in New York has offered to the undergraduate of any American college or university who prepares the best essay on the subject of "Italy's Contribution to Modern Culture" a trip to Italy to see the art, industry, and commerce of that nation as it is today, the trip to be during the coming summer.

That great interest is being displayed by the Japanese in the development of commercial aviation, and that manufacturers of airplanes and their accessories are going to Japan to open up business with the Japanese, whose ultimate object is to establish land and coast routes for commercial purposes in various parts of the Eastern Empire.

That the trans-Pacific markets offer the best field for American trade development, the United States importing more from the countries of Asia today than any other quarter of the world, barring North America, while in exports across the Pacific the United States sends out goods into the Orient to a value exceeded only by the European and North American trade.

GERMANY, REPARATIONS, AND ALLIES' ACTION

London Conference Futile—France and Belgium Insistent—Final German Terms Rejected—Invasion of Rhine Region

Negotiations between Great Britain and France, held on the Sunday before the second reparations conference with Germany convened in London, March 1, had brought the two dominant nations of the Allies closer in an agreed-upon policy than they were when the first conference was held at Paris. The British Prime Minister, it is true, was hopeful of German concessions, more hopeful than were the French or Belgians; but at the same time negotiations had brought him to assent to a naval and military policy against Germany, should it be thought necessary after conference with the German commissioners. The French, less optimistic, had massed larger bodies of troops along the Rhine and stood "fit" ready for an advance into Germany.

On March 1 the conference opened, and the German Foreign Minister presented to the premiers of the Allies a scheme calling for immediate definite fixing of the capital sum to be paid. It should not exceed fifty billion gold marks and be payable within thirty years. Moreover, Germany was to be credited with twenty billion gold marks already paid. Aid was to be given by the Allies in financing an international loan, and in 1926 reparation debts not covered by this loan would be subject to adjustment of terms by the Allies. As to the export tax demanded by the Allies at the Paris meeting, Germany, accepting it in principle, nevertheless asked for modification of the amount. Upper Silesia's plebiscite must be called off, for Germany, it was said, cannot recover economically unless she retains this region; and, in recuperating for the task of paying the burdens imposed, Germany must have consideration when her allies enact tariffs and trade rulings.

The British Prime Minister at once attacked the German delegates for their government's apparent failure to "sense the actualities in the situation," or to realize that Germany was a vanquished foe and not a victor dictating "impossible terms" to the defeated. He called for immediate adjournment of the conference, which followed. Notice was at once formally given that juridical and military advisers would be consulted by the premiers, and the conference reassemble on the morrow.

On March 2 the premiers presented to the German commissioners the text of a decree from the Supreme Council of the Allies, sanctioning occupation of German territory on the right bank of the Rhine by forces of the Allies and collection of customs and taxes therein, if Germany persisted in rejecting the Paris conference's reparations demands.

This attitude of the Allies, reported back to Germany, at first aroused universal resentment. As the days wore on, opinion became divided. On the 6th there were signs that the Berlin Government was preparing counter-proposals that might prove the basis for a compromise; but on the 7th, when the conference formally reopened, Dr. Simons said that Germany could not accept either the Paris or the London demands, and that it had decided not to present any new scheme other than the one made known on the 1st.

future conferences seemed unnecessary, and as he wended his way to Downing Street the London crowds shouted after him, "Make the Germans pay."

Later in the day Marshal Foch gave orders for the French army to move, and, collaborating with British and Belgian troops, occupy the cities of Duisberg, Düsseldorf, and Ruhrort, in the industrial area beyond the Rhine; and steps were taken by civilian authorities to at once establish a customs' boundary under Allied control along the Rhine. Military occupation was effected March 8. The Allied Supreme Council at a meeting at Premier Lloyd-George's official residence, at 10 Downing street, March 9, approved seizure of German customs houses along the Rhine. It was decided that all funds and equivalents in the seized customs depots should be credited to the German reparations fund.

The British Premier, in reporting to the House of Commons, said:

We all deeply deplore having to come to this decision in the interest of the peace of the world, and, despite the fact that our action is liable to a good deal of misapprehension in our own countries, we have made an effort to secure a better understanding, and it is not for lack of effort and discussion that I have now to announce on behalf of the Allies this failure to come to anything like an approximate understanding with Germany.

By vote of the Italian Cabinet, Italy will not share in any use of military force against Germany, and the American troops in the Coblenz region also will have nothing to do with the enterprise.

Germany has announced through Dr. Simons that, though Germany is not a member of the League of Nations, she will appeal to the Assembly "against the sanctions with which we are menaced."

President Ebert, of the Republic, in an address to the people of the invaded State on March 9, said:

Fellow-citizens: Our opponents in the World War imposed upon us unheard-of demands, both in money and kind, impossible of fulfillment. Not only ourselves, but our children and grandchildren, would have become the work slaves of our adversaries by our signature. We were called upon to seal a contract which even the work of a generation would not have sufficed to carry out.

We must not and we cannot comply with it. Our honor and self-respect forbid it.

With an open breach of the Peace Treaty of Versailles, our opponents are advancing to the occupation of more German territory.

We, however, are not in a position to oppose force with force. We are defenseless.

Nevertheless, we can cry out, so all who still recognize the voice of righteousness may hear.

Right is being downtrodden by might.

The whole German people is suffering with those of our citizens who are forced to suffer foreign domination. With firm bonds must this sorrow unite us in one sentiment, one will.

Fellow-citizens, meet this foreign domination with grave dignity. Maintain an upright demeanor. Do not allow yourselves to be driven into committing ill-considered acts. Be patient and have faith.

The imperial government will not rest until the foreign power yields before our right.

Approval of the conduct of negotiations by Dr. Simon has been voted by the Reichstag, and the effect of terms imposed has been to drive all the factions closer together.

The British premier returned to London to find both the trading and the labor groups openly hostile to the terms which he had imposed on Germany.

THE UNITED STATES, THE LEAGUE, AND POLITICS

On February 18 the United States formally withdrew Ralph W. Boyden and twenty-one other agents from service with the Reparations Commission of the League, in which service they had been useful in protecting immediate and ultimate American interests, though having only the status of courtesy and not of law. Mr. Boyden, in announcing his withdrawal to the representatives of the Commission, said:

The decision of the United States Government to withdraw its unofficial representatives from the Reparations Commission has been reached only after long hesitation and careful consideration. All representation upon the commission was in the beginning unofficial, in anticipation of the Treaty of Versailles by the signatory powers.

The other powers have ratified, and their representations have long become official. The United States has not ratified, and as time has passed its unofficial representation on the commission has gradually become anomalous.

My government, under the foregoing conditions, has felt itself unable to co-operate with the allied powers at Brussels and elsewhere in the preparation of plans which seem to involve a change in the treaty. It realizes fully the great difficulty of these problems and recognizes the value of unified action, but as it cannot at present take part in such a discussion or even express any views upon the subject discussed, it feels that it is undesirable to retain even unofficial representation on a commission that is likely to be charged with the execution of such plans.

MR. HUGHES AS SECRETARY OF STATE

On February 19 formal announcement through the press was made of the selection by President-elect Harding of Hon. Charles E. Hughes as Secretary of State, and of the acceptance of the proffer by the former justice of the Federal Supreme Court and governor of New York State. Mr. Harding, who had been in consultation with Mr. Hughes over diplomatic and departmental affairs, when asked by the newspaper correspondents as to details of the appointment and as to the coming national policy, made the significant statement: "You must ask Mr. Hughes that. That is to be another policy of the next administration. From the beginning the Secretary of State will speak for the State Department." Mr. Hughes' message to the country was brief: "Of course, I appraise it a high privilege to be invited by Senator Harding to serve in the administration, and I have regarded it as an imperative obligation to accept the offer he has made.

Mr. Hughes, as governor of New York State, justice of the Federal Supreme Court, and Republican candidate for President in the campaign of 1916, has become a major national figure. During the debate in and out of the Senate on the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles, he has favored acceptance, but with marked changes in the League Covenant, protecting the United States from complications arising from provisions of the compact.

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

At the convention of the National Woman's Party, held in Washington February 15-18, at which the party changed its objective from a victory for equal suffrage (which it helped win) to that of equality of women in all other phases of political, social, and legal relationships, it was formally voted that the leaders and rank and file would contend for such equality "in any association of nations that may be established." The same body of delegates, after debate, de-Lloyd-George, acting as spokesman, indicated at once that